

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system analysis and design method for use in a ~~complex~~ business environment characterized by a set of ~~tightly~~ linked business processes, comprising the steps of:
2. ~~providing an (eXtensible Markup Language) XML-based BDML (Business Decision Markup Language) framework representing a world view of each of a plurality of business decisions associated with business processes from among the set of linked business processes, the BDML world view including a business objectives tag definition for quantitatively representing a business objective, constraints tag definition, assumptions tag definition, data tag definition, and an underlying model tag definition for identifying a business decision mathematical algorithm;~~
3. ~~capturing in a the BDML framework a world view of a plurality of business decisions that occur in the set of linked a business processes, wherein the world view is defined by business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and an underlying model used in the business decision, wherein a BDML (Business Decision Markup Language) is used to implement the framework for specifying the world view of the business decisions; and~~
4. ~~using the framework to~~
5. ~~capturing includes specifying and documenting each of the plurality of business decisions as a BDML portable document structured according to said XML-based BDML framework, having a business objectives tag quantitatively representing the decision's business objective, constraints tag representing the decision's constraints, assumptions tag representing the~~

25 decision's assumptions, data tag representing data related to the decision,
26 and an underlying model tag identifying the business decision mathematical
27 algorithm applied in the decision; in the complex environment
28 checking for logical consistency between different business decisions
29 based on the decision's respective BDML portable documents and their
30 respective said tags.

2. (Canceled).

1 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: wherein
2 the BDML is used for the creation and maintenance of constructing a BDML
3 knowledge base of business decisions and processes within an organization,
4 based on the BDML documents representing said business decisions.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 generating a wherein the BDML document representing, according
3 to said BDML framework, a is used for the publication of the functional
4 specification of a business application software system[[],] ; and
5 generating a BDML document representing, according to said
6 BDML framework, a the world view of a technical research paper in the
7 area of business decisions and its findings.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing
2 a BDML processor and conducting systematic documentation of said business
3 decision's business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying
4 model in business processes, wherein said documenting conducting
5 systematic documentation includes forming the BDML documents
6 representing said world view of said business decision to be as machine
7 readable by the BDML processor and by human users.

6. (Canceled).

1 7. (Currently Amended) A BDML (Business Decision Markup Language)
2 processor comprising:

3 a syntax processor to that checks ~~the~~ syntax correctness and syntax
4 consistency within an individual and between different documents written
5 in BDML;

6 a logic processor to that checks logical consistency between different
7 documents written in BDML, each document having tags representing a
8 business decision according to in terms of the decision's business
9 objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying decision
10 mathematical models among the different documents, wherein the logical
11 processor is arranged to check for logical consistency includes checking for
12 logical consistency between different documents' tags representing their
13 respective business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and
14 underlying decision mathematical models; and

15 a knowledge-based processor including a BDML knowledge base of
16 business decisions, common choices for their decision support models and
17 commercially available decision support systems, wherein the knowledge-
18 based processor is arranged to provides suggestions for a set of BDML
19 documents based on an objective of improving to improve consistency using
20 the knowledge base;